Rights Charge

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The Justice Department has charged George Angus Pate, 58, of Rowland, N.C., with intimidating two persons who were encouraging others to vote on a nondiscriminatory basis.

The Department said it was its first case filed under a provision of the 1968 Civil Rights Act that makes it a Federal crime to interfere with a person excercising certain civil rights.

Pate is charged with pointing a gun at a white man and an Indian woman and with assaulting the man and threatening the woman because they were encouraging others to participate in a June runoff election without regard to race or color.